

A photograph of several children outdoors. One child in the foreground is holding a large, colorful globe. Other children are holding a large rainbow flag that is partially draped over the globe. The scene is set on a paved area with a green awning and a building in the background.

*Be joyful in  
hope, patient in  
affliction, faithful  
in prayer. Share  
with the Lord's  
people who are in  
need. Practice  
hospitality.*

ROMANS 12:12-13

NORTH AVENUE NEWS



# Looking Forward

DR. MARK BREWER, INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Dear members and friends of North Avenue Presbyterian Church,

One of the beautiful words the Apostle Paul uses to describe the Church is the Greek word 'meley.' We translate the word as 'member' when Paul says we are 'members' of one another. The trouble is that common language has borrowed the word and now it means a dull 'membership' or anonymous collection of items. When Paul uses it as he writes to the Corinthian church, he is using the analogy of 'members of a human body.' It is really closer to 'we are organs of one another.' The uniqueness we all bring to our church is found in relationship to others. I find the world to be rather boring in having to act, look, and talk alike in order to fit in. I think the really different kinds of people are those who belong to Christ and His Church.

As we begin our journey together, as your Interim Senior Pastor, I look forward to getting to meet new brothers and sisters in Christ at North Avenue. In the different churches I have had the privilege to lead, I always find new experiences of how marvelously the Spirit of God uses others in diverse ways. It seems the same people are gifted and used in different ways in different chapters of their lives. Just like over the years I have never heard a boring testimony, and I have heard thousands. I see the Lord continually doing fresh new things in people's lives as they seek to join others in following Christ.

Transitions and change can be hard, but they are the best opportunity for the Lord to do new wonderful things in all of our lives. My prayer and firm hope is that this next year will be a rich time of seeing Christ use all of us in relationship to each other as we follow the Risen Christ boldly into His future.

With love in Christ,

*Dr. Mark Brewer*

INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

# A Word From

REV. MEGAN JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Dear Church Family,

I have to admit that August still feels too early for school to start back up. My kids began/will begin school on Aug. 1 and 6 and Scott leaves for college on Aug.23. But my school rhythm from childhood holds August as vacation month and school did not begin until after Labor Day. So, for years I have basically spent August in a grumpy denial and have not really been willing to settle back into the routine until September. It's been 19 years since my oldest started school; maybe it is time I get over it?

However, this year, I am so excited about the leadership of the Grow Team and the plans that are shaping up for August. Beyond that, I promise to do a better job of embracing the month of August as an opportunity for a new beginning and I look forward to inviting new experiences and renewed practices into my life.

During several Sundays in August, we will welcome these calendar transitions in worship and I hope you won't miss a single one. On Sunday, Aug. 4 we will celebrate the beginning of the new school year for our children with the Blessings of the Backpacks for students of all ages, teachers, and professors. Come to worship, receive a bag-tag for your backpack or briefcase, and be reminded that the Word of the Lord is a light to your path and a lamp to your feet as you walk the journey of a new school year.

On Sunday, Aug. 11, we will hold our last combined Discipleship Hour class in the Overlook Hall, bringing the series to a close with Renata Dennis leading a discussion of the life and writings of Sophie Scholl. This has been a truly inspiring series and my reading list is certainly longer now than it was at the beginning of the summer!

On Sunday, Aug. 18, we will kick off the Discipleship Hour in all areas of our church. Children, Youth, and Adult Discipleship will all return to their regular schedules of class times and spaces. Be sure to read this newsletter closely for details in each area. To highlight just a few: Please be sure to register your children for Sunday School so that we can prepare for them with name tags, class materials, and teachers. Be praying for our eighth graders as they begin a school year-long process of preparing to join the church through Confirmation. Spread the word to college students that we have a Discipleship Hour class just for them. Plan to visit one of our ten Adult Discipleship Classes, even if you've never participated in one before. Each class has a different identity; there are more details in this newsletter, or reach out to me, Elder Kameron Joelson, or other members of the Grow Team for help in finding the right class for you.

Worship is a wonderful space to be in the presence of God and the Spirit is at work within us while we are present in God's Sanctuary. Discipleship is an opportunity to explore the forming work of the Spirit through relationship, study, and discussion. We sincerely hope you will find a place that fits on Sunday mornings or throughout the week in one of our on-going Bible Studies or small groups. We will also help you find folks to gather with if you are having trouble finding a right fit. Kim Goldsmith, our Coordinator for Hospitality & Outreach, is a master at gathering people who live or work near one another to meet for formation and prayer on a regular basis. May this new school year be a year of formation and growth for all of us.

Blessings in Christ,

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP

# Summer in Review



“GOD IS  
ABLE TO DO FAR  
MORE THAN WE  
COULD EVER ASK  
FOR OR IMAGINE. HE  
DOES EVERYTHING BY  
HIS POWER THAT IS  
WORKING IN US.”  
EPHESIANS  
3:20





AUSTRIA  
MISSION  
TRIP



JAMAICA  
MISSION  
TRIP



THE  
GREAT  
ESCAPE



MISSION  
PLUNGE  
JR.

*To Know  
Jesus & Make  
Him Known*



MISSION  
PLUNGE



COMBINED  
WORSHIP



MISSION  
MADNESS



SUMMER  
CHILDREN'S  
MUSICAL



COMBINED  
DISCIPLESHIP  
HOUR

# Discipleship Kickoff

## Children & Family Ministries

How do we want our children to be known? How do we model and instill a vibrant faith that is not only contagious, but becomes the core of their identity? North Avenue's Children and Family Ministries (CFM) are blessed to join our families as we cultivate our children's spiritual foundation which rests in them knowing **who** they are and **whose** they are. We want our children to know that they are made uniquely in the image of God, and through the grace, everlasting love, and forgiveness we have in Jesus, know that they are called to love others and join God's mission in the world. Through engaging God's word, praying, singing, serving, playing, talking, laughing, and developing relationships with other adults, youth, and children who love God, we learn and grow together to be the followers of Christ that make a difference in our world. NAPC's Children and Family Ministries meets each child where they are, knowing that through the power of the Holy Spirit, they will come to fully know that they are loved and can share that love with others.

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."*

**Romans  
12:12-13**

The CFM Team is excited to kickoff a new season with you as we engage our children in a deeper relationship with Jesus. It is a joy and delight for each of us to walk with you as your children grow in their faith, knowledge, and relationship with Jesus.

## Children's Choirs

SUNDAYS AT 9 A.M.

**Cherub Choir** is for children between ages two and six. Through song, laughter, and singing in worship, we learn about the love and power of God. We learn that Jesus loves each of us, young and old, no matter what we do or who we are. Music fills so many of us with joy and sharing that joy with our youngest is part of what makes NAPC a special place for children. For more information, contact Susan Rembert, [susan@amis-inc.org](mailto:susan@amis-inc.org)

**Junior Choir** is for children first-fifth grade and builds on the foundation of earlier experiences in Cherub Choir by introducing musical notation, simple two-part harmony, vocal technique, and listening skills that empower the young voice to "... sing with the spirit, but also with the understanding." (1 Corinthians 14:15) The Juniors sing in worship every four to six weeks, participate in "Lessons and Carols," and offer a staged musical at Christmas and in mid-summer as part of the Fine Arts Camp. For more information, contact Bryan Black, [bryan@nipc.org](mailto:bryan@nipc.org)



# Children's Discipleship

SUNDAYS AT 10:15 A.M.

2019-2020 Sunday Morning Children's Programs registration is open! Please register your children by Monday, Aug. 12 at [www.napc.org/children-family](http://www.napc.org/children-family)



## Infants and Walkers:

We want to help children learn about God and take their first steps in their relationship with Jesus right from the start! Our youngest children will listen to music about God and

experience God's love through their caregivers and church volunteers. Our Walkers engage every Sunday in God's word by experiencing and participating in a lesson that incorporates Bible stories, singing, crafts, snacks, and prayer.

**Two's and Three's and Pre-K:** During the Discipleship hour, all preschool classes use Gospel Light curriculum focusing on God's love for us all. Each session emphasizes both a Bible story and Bible verse. Children hear the Bible story from their Sunday School leader and then explore different ways of applying the story through play and projects. This is the time where we focus on developing relationships with our children. Our focus is to nurture our children's relationship with Jesus, their relationship with their peers, and their relationship with adults in our church family who love and encourage them. We play to learn, listen to learn, and talk to learn. We also share a snack together. Our topics this year are Learning about God's love, Jesus loves and helps me, Jesus is alive, and Loving God and others.

## CHURCH - HOME CONNECTIONS

1. Projects That Your Child Makes and Brings Home
2. Weekly Take-Home Paper
3. NAPC CFM Newsletter (that is e-mailed home monthly and can also be picked up at The Sphere Welcome Desk)



**The Sphere** is our Sunday morning program for kindergarten through fifth grade at the 10:15 a.m. Discipleship hour. We use the 252 Basics curriculum which is a virtue based, large group/small group program whose three basic truths are: Trust God no matter what, Make the wise choice, and Treat others the way you want to be treated.

During this time our kindergarten through fifth grade students will experience a large group time of creative Bible teaching that focuses on understanding and applying God's word in our relationship with Him and others. This is followed by activities in small groups that build relationships between the children and Jesus, their peers and their leaders and applying God's word to their lives. We intentionally focus on the faith skills of Hearing (listening to God's word), Praying (having a dialogue with God), Talking (articulating our faith), and Living (worshipping God with our lives). We also follow the "know what, so what, now what format": Know what is the information and facts we learn. So what is the reason it is important in our relationship with Jesus and others. Now what is how we prayerfully live out loving God and loving others. Some of the virtues we will focus on this year are: Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, Gratitude, Generosity, Commitment, Kindness, Patience, Peace, and Honesty.

## CHURCH - HOME CONNECTIONS

1. Projects/Activities That Your Child Makes and Brings Home
2. Weekly Devotional Handouts
3. NAPC CFM Newsletter and attached Parent Question Card (that is e-mailed home on a monthly basis or can be picked up at The Sphere's Welcome Desk)

Both The Lil Sphere and The Sphere programs are led by Children and Family Ministries staff and volunteer leaders who are serving in areas of their giftedness. We have large group leaders, small group leaders, hospitality or greeting teams, buddies for children with special needs, and other ways to serve to prepare for our experience on Sunday mornings. We are blessed to have this team of people loving and serving our children and we would love for you to join us. Please email Roxie Chess, Director of Children & Family Ministries and Mission Partnerships, for more information, [roxie@napc.org](mailto:roxie@napc.org)

# Youth Ministry



*Our youth ministry is not a destination, but a vehicle that will take our youth's faith to new levels, challenges, places and experiences. They will worship, grow and go, taking Christ's love out to the world and discovering for themselves how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.*

## Sunday Mornings

On Sunday mornings, youth in grades 6-12 gather in the Underground on the first floor at 10 a.m. The first 15 minutes are a time of fellowship and food (bagels and donuts) and the remaining 45 minutes are a time of discipleship. During this time, the youth are split into four classes:

- 6-7th grade class (Old Testament/New Testament)
- 8th grade Confirmation class (what does it mean to be a Christian? Presbyterian? Member of North Avenue?)
- 9-10th grade class (what does faith look like in my life?)
- 11-12th grade class (what does faith look like in the world?)

Each class has at least one adult teacher and one adult leader to help facilitate discussions. At 11 a.m., students either head up to the Sanctuary for worship or they are welcome to stay until 11:30 a.m. playing games and enjoying fellowship with other youth in the Underground.

## Sunday Evenings

Youth who love to sing are invited to join the Youth Choir at 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoons in the Choir Room. Bryan Black, Director of Worship Arts & Choral Music, does a wonderful job teaching our youth about music, singing, their individual gifts, and the gift of community.

At 5 p.m., on Sunday nights, youth in grades 6-12 are invited for Youth Group! We meet in the Underground and eat from 5-5:30 p.m. Parents take turns signing up to bring dinner. At 5:30 p.m., we move up to the gym for games. At 6 p.m., we come back down to the Underground for Bible Study. After Bible study, we break into small groups for discussion and prayer time. Each small group is led by a youth and a young adult volunteer.

## How to get involved

If you are a student wanting to get involved, you can just show up! If you are an adult interested in serving on Sundays, providing a meal, being a small group leader, chaperoning retreats, or being a retreat host, please contact Jessica Dart for information, [jessica@napc.org](mailto:jessica@napc.org)

## Yearly Schedule:

- Aug. 11: Youth family picnic in the park 4-6 p.m.
- Aug. 18: Youth choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group kickoff at 5 p.m.
- Aug. 25: Youth choir at 4 p.m., parent meeting at 5 p.m., Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- Sept. 6-8: High school retreat
- Sept. 15: Youth Choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- Sept. 22: Youth Choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- Sept. 27-29: 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat
- Oct. 6: World Communion (Youth Choir singing), Youth Choir at 4 p.m., Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- Oct. 18-20: Middle School Retreat
- Oct. 27: Youth Choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- Nov. 3: Youth Choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- Nov. 10: Youth Choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- Nov. 15-17: Austria Retreat
- Dec. 1: Youth Choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- Dec. 8: Advent Fair
- Dec. 15: Youth Caroling and Party
- Jan. 12: Family Fun Night
- Jan. 24: Youth lock-in
- Feb. 9: Youth Choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- Feb. 21: High School Retreat
- Feb. 23: Family Worship
- March 6-8: Confirmation Retreat
- March 15: Youth Choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- March 22: Youth Choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- March 27-29: Middle School Retreat
- April 19: Youth Choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- April 26: Youth Choir at 4 p.m. and Youth Group at 5 p.m.
- May 3: Youth Sunday
- May 17: Promotion Sunday/ Youth end-of-school party

# Who are the Young Adults?

## Young Adults

“Young Adults” doesn’t always feel like the right term for this diverse group of “young” adults. We range from age 20-40, with a majority in their late twenties and early thirties. Unlike other churches, we don’t try separate people based on age, stage, and affinity. Singles mix with marrieds. Late thirties hang with the early twenties. PhD candidates fellowship with those who work part-time. Young adults transition to being young families. Some of us prefer the morning services and deepen cross-generational friendships. Some of us prefer the evening service and deepen friendships with our own. Some just moved to midtown and started worshipping last week. Others came to NAPC ten plus years ago as college students or recent graduates.

This tapestry of Young Adults is beautiful and ever changing. What unites us is Jesus, who knits us together, while honoring our particular colors. In response, we strive to honor one another’s uniqueness, to be with one another in ups and downs of the life. We prefer the **“both, and”** approach—the “Young Adults” are both young and adults, both similar and quite different, both stand out as their own pattern and are interwoven within the greater life of North Avenue.

We define Young Adults as those who consider themselves young, so if you consider yourself young, even if your peers might not, then you are welcome to join! The information for our small groups and fellowship events comes through our weekly Young Adult E-News. If you would like to be added to this weekly email, please contact Elder Emily Curtin, [emilymaycurtin@gmail.com](mailto:emilymaycurtin@gmail.com). Or even better, introduce yourself in person!

Young Adult Retreat - Join us for our retreat this fall. For more information contact Leslie Rhoades, [larhoades92@gmail.com](mailto:larhoades92@gmail.com) or Eddie Turner, [eddie.turner@gmail.com](mailto:eddie.turner@gmail.com)



# 10:15 a.m. Discipleship Hour

**Choir Class:** Discipleship and formation at 9:15 a.m. in BMC-A for those who provide leadership to the congregation through singing in the choir.

**Higher Grounds:** Facilitated by psychologist Lisa Tallant, Higher Grounds is current, relatable and open to all. Given that the weekly topics are related to what is currently happening in the world and the church, it is easy to drop-in! We integrate current events and psychology with Biblical scripture, generating lively discussion and fellowship (Room 3209).

**Cornerstone:** Inspired by Ephesians 2:19-22, the Cornerstone Class will explore what it means to seek Jesus as the Cornerstone of all aspects of our lives and worldviews—vocation, marriage, family, interpersonal relationships—and what that looks like in the real world. Gay Buxton serves as the class coordinator (Room 3210).

**Designed for Discipleship:** Rooted in a verse by verse examination of Scripture, each Sunday we aim to create a space where we learn from each other through an honest, thoughtful discussion of Scripture passages and how then to apply God's Word to live lives that are pleasing to God (Room 4101). Debby Heller serves as the class communicator; Jon Toppen leads the teaching team which includes Frans Christ, Elizabeth Giesecking, Ben Stanford, David Lamaina, and Courtney Robinson.

**International Perspectives:** Coordinated by a team of three committed leaders, Tom McLeod, Renata Dennis and Lakshmi Sankar, this group draws congregants from international backgrounds, those who are committed to the global mission of the church and those who have spent time overseas in service to the church. Our goal is to understand more fully the Great Commission by studying the Scriptures and hearing the testimonies of visiting missionaries as well as the experiences of our fellow class members. (BMC-B)

**Families with Young Children:** Parents with children in preschool and younger gather for Bible study and to share in life together (Room 4102). The class is taught by Rev. Glenn Goldsmith and supported by Jim and Joellen McKay.

**The Cup:** A class giving voice to street theology and a safe place for new-comers to gather, the Cup seeks to help bridge gaps in the church inadvertently caused by theological and economic differences (Room 4113). Elder Prince Davies-Vinn provides leadership to the weekly conversations.

**Speak Easy:** A time to gather for authentic conversation on the journey toward the intersection of justice, Jesus, and everyday life (Room 4200). People of all ages and stages are welcome to join in this relaxed time of fellowship and dialogue. Katie Delp provides leadership to the conversation.

**The United Class:** Facilitated by Whit Smith, this lecture-based format is designed to provide expository Bible teaching to a community wishing not only to know about God but also to grow in knowing God (Room 4103).

**The College Class:** Spending time in God's Word can be challenging in college when there are so many demands on our time and attention. Join other area college students as well as NAPC members home on break to gather for conversations about maintaining our identity as followers of Jesus even as we raise questions about our faith as it intersects (and sometimes clashes with) this journey into independence (Room 4203). The class is facilitated by Elder Gaan Akers and other members of the NAPC Young Adult Community.

**Chinese Discipleship Class** is twofold: to immerse the student believers with the Word of God and help them apply the Gospel into their daily lives; and to introduce the Word of God to the seekers and help them see God's revelation. There is also a Sunday ESL Bible Class at 10:15 a.m. that previews worship and includes sermon text with English vocabulary for Chinese Scholars.

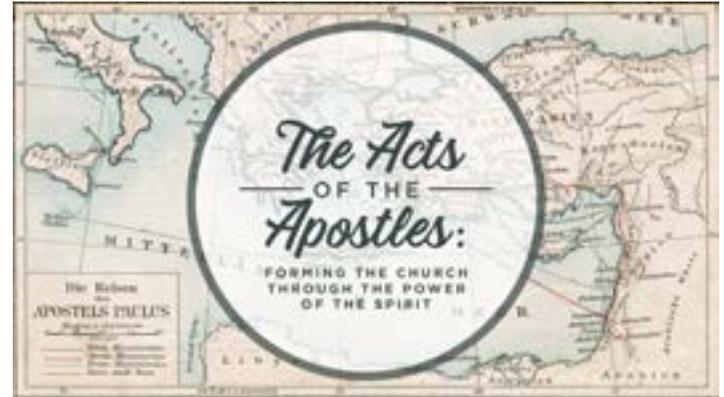
# Adult Discipleship Schedule

AUG. 18, 2019	CHILDREN, YOUTH, ADULT DISCIPLESHIP KICK-OFF - Return to individual classes
SEPT. 29, 2019	COMBINED ADULT DISCIPLESHIP - Fifth Sunday Forum led by the Reconciliation Task Force
OCT. 6, 2019	NO DISCIPLESHIP: - World Communion Sunday - One Combined Worship Service at 10:15 a.m. - International Tasting at 11:30 a.m.
DEC. 15, 2019	NO DISCIPLESHIP: - Lessons & Carols
DEC. 29, 2019	NO DISCIPLESHIP: - One Combined Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.
JAN. 19, 2020	COMBINED ADULT DISCIPLESHIP at 9 a.m. - Pop-Up Mission Conference - One Combined Worship Service at 10:15 a.m. - Church-wide Potluck
MARCH 29, 2020	COMBINED ADULT DISCIPLESHIP - Fifth Sunday Forum led by the Reconciliation Task Force
APRIL 12, 2020	EASTER SUNDAY   NO DISCIPLESHIP: - Sunrise Service - 9 a.m. Contemporary Service - 11:15 a.m. Traditional Service

# Save the Date

*Be sure to mark your calendars for these exciting events that will be happening soon at North Avenue!*

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** We invite the women of NAPC to join us in our next Bible Study "The Acts of the Apostles: Forming the Church through the Power of the Spirit." We will meet on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. for a meal and fellowship with bible study beginning at 6:30 p.m. On Thursday mornings, we meet from 9:45-11:45 a.m. for study and small groups. Children's programs are available beginning Sept. 11 and 12.



**2020 WOMEN'S RETREAT:** Save the date for the 2020 Women's Retreat on March 20-22. We will be at the beautiful Forest Hills Mountain Resort in Dahlonega, GA from Friday evening to Sunday noon. To see the resort, visit [www.forresthillsresort.com](http://www.forresthillsresort.com). More information coming soon.

## **MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION CLASS:**

Interested in learning about church membership? Join us for dinner at a member's home on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 6-8 p.m. Then, arrive early at church on Sundays, Sept. 22 and 29 from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. to eat breakfast and explore what North Avenue is all about and what membership means. Questions/Information: Kim Goldsmith, [kim@napc.org](mailto:kim@napc.org) If you are interested in the membership class, write "membership" on your connection card, and someone will contact you.



**Enneagram Workshop:** Wherever you fall on the Enneagram Map, we invite you to join us on Sunday, Oct. 27 from 1-5 p.m. for an Enneagram Workshop led by Nan Henson, Enneagram Coach, Teacher, and Workshop Facilitator at The Atlanta Center for Wellness. Visit [www.napc.org/news/enneagram](http://www.napc.org/news/enneagram) for more information.

# August Worship Schedule

## Worship

<p>AUG. 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communion</b></li> <li>• <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b> - We invite students of all ages to bring their backpacks to worship Sunday, Aug. 4 as we offer a special blessing over this new school year. We will share backpack tags with a bible verse on them as a reminder that you are loved and are being prayed for by your NAPC family.</li> </ul>
<p>AUG. 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NAPC Chancel Choir Open House</b> - We invite singers of all skills and ages to an Open House on Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Music Suite. God's song needs your voice to be heard! A complimentary meal will be served at 6 p.m. RSVP to Bryan Black, Director of Worship Arts &amp; Choral Music <a href="mailto:bryan@napc.org">bryan@napc.org</a></li> </ul>
<p>AUG. 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Tom Tewell</b> wraps up the "Welcoming the Stranger" series at 10:15 a.m. service</li> <li>• <b>"Meet and Greet" Dr. Mark Brewer</b> following the 10:15 a.m. worship service</li> <li>• <b>Second Sunday gathering</b> - Join us for our "Second Sunday" gathering in the Overlook Hall for a special time of worship and prayer where Rev. Megan Johnson will interview Dr. Mark Brewer about his faith story. For more information, please contact Josh Schicker, Director of Worship Arts &amp; Technology at <a href="mailto:josh@napc.org">josh@napc.org</a></li> </ul>
<p>AUG. 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Back to regular Worship schedule</b> 9 a.m. Contemporary Service and 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship</li> <li>• Discipleship Kickoff</li> <li>• Healing Service</li> </ul>
<p>AUG. 25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Worship Volunteer Fair</b> The Worship team needs you to help the wheels of our church go! Join us on Sunday, Aug. 25, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Overlook. The worship team includes several tactical teams that each include volunteers with a range of time commitments. Stop by and see where you might enjoy serving our church community. Possible volunteer opportunities include: <u>Hospitality:</u> Coffee, Receptions, Potlucks, and Greeting <u>Music:</u> Worship Band, Chancel Choir, Open Door Choir, and Handbell Choir <u>Worship:</u> Communion and Technology Questions: Contact Lisa Ellinger at <a href="mailto:lisa@napc.org">lisa@napc.org</a></li> </ul>

Go



**Lazarus Health Day** - Sunday, Sept. 22. For more than a decade, Lazarus has held an annual Health Day in the heart of Atlanta. This year, we will gather together at North Avenue Presbyterian on Peachtree Street and celebrate good health and kinship with our brothers and sisters in the homeless community. To sign up to volunteer: [www.werarelazarus.org/healthday](http://www.werarelazarus.org/healthday)

## Chinese Students Sunday School

The Chinese Students Sunday School is twofold: to immerse the student believers with the Word of God and help them apply the Gospel into their daily lives; and to introduce the Word of God to the seekers and help them see God's revelation. For more information please visit [www.napc.org/chinesestudents](http://www.napc.org/chinesestudents) or contact Jason Chen, our International Student Ministry Coordinator at [jason@napc.org](mailto:jason@napc.org)

## Chinese Ministry



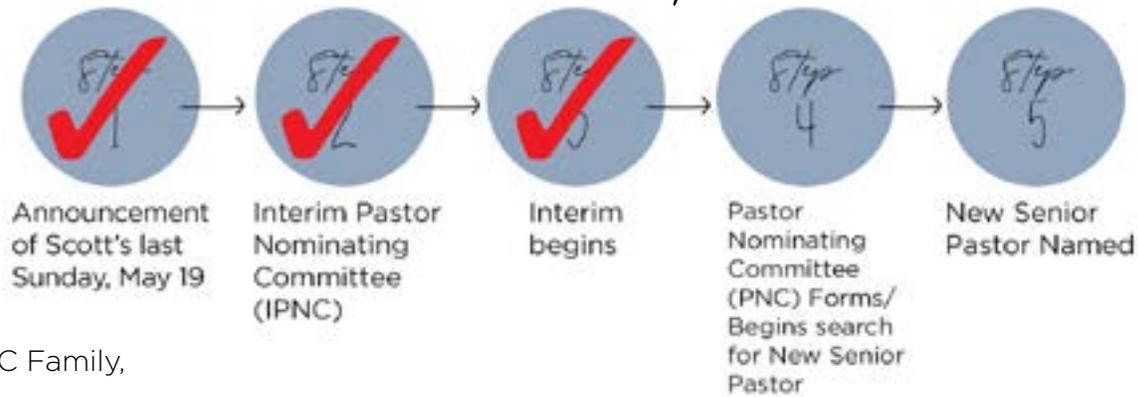
## Chinese Scholars

NAPC has a Sunday ESL Bible Class at 10:15 a.m. that previews worship and includes sermon text with English vocabulary. There is also a free ESL and American Culture class on Wednesday nights on the fourth floor of the church. Dinner is at the fourth floor gym 5:30-6:30 p.m. (\$4), and class is from 6:30-8 p.m. For more information, please contact Carol Hightower at [carolh50@bellsouth.net](mailto:carolh50@bellsouth.net) or Neale Hightower at [nealeh1@bellsouth.net](mailto:nealeh1@bellsouth.net)

## Prayer Requests from GO

Please pray for the welcoming of Chinese students in the first few weeks of August. We pray that the airport pick-ups will go smoothly, that the students will feel the radical hospitality by their hosts, and that the Welcoming Dinner will be a joy-filled time of fellowship. Pray for strength, patience and love for those who are a part of the Chinese Ministry. Please pray for our urban and global partners as they share the hope, peace, joy, love, and light with those they are ministering to in our city and around the world.

# Transition Update



Hello NAPC Family,

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the NAPC staff for doing a wonderful job as we continue our ministry into the summer and fall. We greatly appreciate the Rev. Megan Johnson for providing capable leadership leading up to the arrival of Dr. Mark Brewer as our Interim Senior Pastor on Aug. 1.

The following are two sources for finding the latest information on the transition:

- Transition Website - [www.napc.org/transition](http://www.napc.org/transition). Please check it out.
- Fourth Sunday Q&A at The Crossing at 10 a.m. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, on Aug. 25.

**Prayer** - Please continue to pray often for all of us during this time of change. Pray daily for the Weimers, the Brewers, and the person who will be called as the new Senior Pastor. Also, pray for the whole transition process as many people (staff and members) are doing extra tasks during this period of opportunity. Your prayers are felt and needed. Thank you especially to the team of Claire Hertzler, Carol Hightower, and Laura Gettler for organizing and leading the prayer effort. The following are opportunities for prayer:

- Corporate prayer on Sundays from 8:15-8:50 a.m. in the Library
- Pause for Prayer wherever you are on Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

**Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** - Thank you for your abundant and thoughtful recommendations for the PNC. The combined HR and Transition Teams are in the final stages of evaluating the input received from the Congregation regarding who should be on the PNC. We plan to present the slate prior to a Congregational Meeting in September.

**Congregational Survey** - Thank you for taking the TCI survey and for "Having Your Say." The number of responses to the survey was excellent, and more than 250 people participated. The results of the survey will help inform the PNC and Senior Pastor candidates of the heart and calling of the congregation, and the results will also help guide NAPC's future trajectories.

We sincerely apologize to the few people who encountered a technical glitch in submitting the survey. We are continuing to work with Leighton Ford Ministries to resolve the problem to ensure that everyone has their say. If you encountered a problem while taking the survey and did not complete your submission, please contact Lisa Ellinger, Executive Assistant for Worship, at [lisa@napc.org](mailto:lisa@napc.org)

In conjunction with the survey, LFM has conducted six small focus groups in order to gain greater insight into the life of the church. We expect to receive the complete results and evaluation of all assessments from Leighton Ford Ministries in the fall, and we will share a summary of the findings accordingly.



*Don Handell*  
CLERK OF SESSION

# Prayer Team Interview

**The Prayer Team for The Transition has adopted Isaiah 43:19 as a guide:  
“Behold I am doing a *new* thing...do you not see it?”**

The Interview below gives us a glimpse into how that is working out.

## **Neale Hightower, Elder and Chair of Interim Pastor Nominating Committee**

**Prayer Team:** Neale, how has the church’s prayer emphasis during this early part of the transition made a difference for you?

**Hightower:** I do see God’s hand in leading us to Dr. Mark Brewer. We had some excellent possibilities with Dr. Brewer ending up the clear choice. I see this clarity as God’s answer to the prayers of the committee, the prayer team groups, and the entire congregation.

**Prayer Team:** We can give praises to the Lord for how He consistently orchestrated the process of your Interim Pastor Nominating Committee’s search, then, and for this new thing He will be doing in Dr. Brewer’s time with us.

**Prayer Team:** How can the congregation continue to pray now that Dr. Brewer is here?

**Hightower:** Continue to lift him and his family up and know that our prayers brought Dr. Brewer here and through our prayers we can continue to have a part in his ministry among us.

**Prayer Team:** How do you see the prayer emphasis shaping the Transition as a whole?

**Hightower:** I’ve seen how diverse giftedness and perspectives bring clear direction in the decision-making. As we move toward choosing a PNC, I clearly see the work of the Spirit in our decisions and our unity.

## **Don Handell, Clerk of Session and Chair of the Transition Team**

**Prayer Team:** Don, you have been the lead person during this time of Transition. What place do you see the prayer emphasis having during this time?

**Handell:** Prayer is the base of all that is going on in the Transition process. Without it we would not be grounded in our relationship to God as we move forward.

**Prayer Team:** What had you hoped for when you asked for people to commit to pray for the Transition?

**Handell:** God’s guidance on the whole process. I feel that is being experienced.

**Prayer Team:** What specific things would you like the church to be praying for as we look at the continuing transition process?

**Handell:** First, we need to continue to pray for the Weimers. Second, pray for the Brewers as they come to join us. Third, pray for God to lead us to the right person to serve as our next senior pastor. And overall, pray for the entire transition process and to keep NAPC strong during the transition and into the future.

**Prayer Team:** Thank you, Neale and Don.

Join in corporate prayer on Sundays from 8:15-8:50 a.m. in the Library and Wednesdays at 2 p.m. for a “Pause for Prayer” wherever you are. Information: [www.napc.org/transition](http://www.napc.org/transition)

# NAPC Library



Have you ever seen a “Free Little Library” in someone’s front yard? It is a place where neighbors deposit books they have read and are ready to share with others, and it is a place where you can find a book to read and enjoy and then return for others to enjoy as well!

That is the concept behind NAPC’s reimagined library. Rather than maintaining a traditional system of checking out books and returning them by a certain date, you are invited to find a book to enjoy and return it whenever you are finished with it. You are also welcome to bring a book you have enjoyed to the library so that it may be freely shared with others.

## What the library is:

- The library is a place for books that have changed your life and that have positively influenced your understanding of your walk with Christ.
- It is for books that have taught you how to pray or that have enhanced your understanding of Discipleship.
- It is for books that have challenged you, books that you have discussed with others because you cannot stop talking about them, and books that you want everyone else to read.

## What the library is not:

- The library is not an alternative to Goodwill. Please do not bring books that are your leftovers or that you are just trying to get rid of.

**If you would like to donate:** If you have a book you would like to donate to the library, please put a sticker from the library on the inside cover. If possible, please write or print out a brief review of the book – why it was influential, why you want others to read it, what was especially helpful regarding your growth or understanding – and place your review in the inside front cover as well. Then place your donated book on the shelf where it best fits. We have sections on Spiritual Formation, Reconciliation, Christian Classics, World Religions, and more.

**How you can help:** We are always glad for folks to tidy the library, ensuring that books are in their correct categories and that multiple copies of books are shelved together. We would also love for people who have enjoyed books in our current collection to write reviews for books already on the shelves. Are you a writer? Consider contributing to our weekly e-news or monthly newsletter by highlighting a new arrival in the library with a review. Submissions may be sent to Rev. Megan Johnson, Associate Pastor for Discipleship, and co-chair of our Grow team.



# Reconciliation

## begins with Relationship

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.." 2 Corinthians 5:17-19*

For the last year and half, a small group of eleven Elders, Deacons, and members have been meeting monthly to grow and discuss reconciliation. We are still a "work in progress" praying, discerning, learning, and participating in each other's lives to develop the ministry of reconciliation clearly articulated by Paul that comes from Christ. This was our charge from the 2018-2021 NACP Strategic Plan.

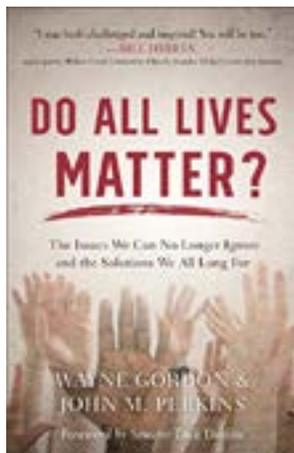
Our team weaves together as one across racial, ethnic, and generational lines. We are building relationships and exploring perspectives that we cannot imagine life without now. We were given three aspects to our charge (racial, socio-economic, and inter-generational) but it seemed that race kept coming up as the focus of our conversations. The racial divide seems to be one of the root causes of the brokenness and lack of relationships in our society, including socio-economic, that we are called to address through Christ's ministry of reconciliation. Through our learning together, we realize that most of our church, meaning primarily white people, still have a lot to learn. Our brothers and sisters of color have been patient. As we have been on this journey of awareness of issues around racial reconciliation, we have come to the following convictions:

- We need to build relationships with people who look different from ourselves.
- We need to know and to own our racial history as a country, and closer to home.
- We need to hear the stories of our brothers and sisters and how they have been impacted by the wrongs done to people of color.
- We need to talk about racial healing and why it is necessary before we can effectively talk about reconciliation.
- We need to consider prayerfully what the Lord desires/requires of us as individuals and as a church.

The Spirit has been moving and various ministries at NACP have offered awareness opportunities: the Women's Retreat in 2018, the summer book study focused on race, a concert at Morehouse and discussion after, a field trip to Montgomery and the Lynching Memorial, and book groups about our role as white people in our society. These have helped raise awareness, but our congregational journey is just beginning. It is an exciting time to be at North Avenue! God is opening our minds, our eyes, and our hearts and we see our team as a vital part of this movement.

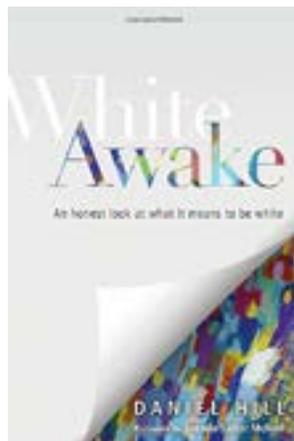
This summer our leadership is learning more about what it means to be a diverse people who are reconciled unto the Lord. It begins with relationships. Relationships need knowledge, nurturing, and common experiences. During July and August, each of our Elders, Deacons, and Staff is reading and discussing one of three books (see below) and we invite you to join us on the next step in our journey of learning. These books are available in the library. Please take one from the shelf that says "Reconciliation Reading" and when finished, return to the Library or pass on to someone who will read it and learn.

For more information and/or discussion, contact the Members of the Reconciliation Team: Rev. Irene Wong, Chair, Edwin Bethea; Jeff Delp; Dan Heller; Jane Hubbard; Sara Anne Johnson; Peter Karanja; Cassandra Kirk; Ann Carter McDonald; Marc Pilgrim; and Weslie Robinson.



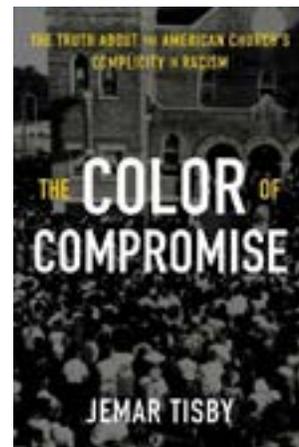
**Do All Lives Matter?**

by Wayne Gordon & John Perkins  
- This is a short, introductory book on the issues related to racial reconciliation for those who are beginners in the journey.



**White Awake**

by Daniel Hill - A white pastor shares his journey in learning about his white racial culture. Through his own experience and learning, he articulates seven stages of removing the blinders from our dominant culture eyes.



**The Color of Compromise**

by Jemar Tisby - A historical survey of the history of the American church's complicity in racism and an honest look at the challenges of reconciliation today.

*In the Life*

- Birth:  
Callahan Gray Lever, June 19
- Deaths:  
Annie Elizabeth Bailey Primm, July 14  
Carolyn Louise Tye, July 15
- Wedding:  
Jihan el-Shabazz & Charles Mucheru Mbugua, Aug. 3

*Financial Report*

	<u>JUNE 2019</u>	<u>2019 YEAR-TO-DATE</u>
Ministry & Mission Income	\$ 219,750	\$ 1,158,817
<u>Ministry &amp; Mission Expenses</u>	<u>250,343</u>	<u>1,226,748</u>
Difference	\$ (30,593)	\$ (67,931)

Did you know that you can set up recurring gifts through our online giving portal?  
Visit [www.napc.org/give](http://www.napc.org/give)

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# NAPC Calendar

## Aug. 1

Dr. Mark Brewer's First Day

## Aug. 4

Communion  
Blessings of the Backpacks  
Chinese Host Training at 11 a.m. in Overlook  
Youth Small Group Training at 11:15 a.m. in the Underground

## Aug. 7

NAPC Chancel Choir Open House

## Aug. 11

Dr. Mark Brewer "Meet and Greet"  
Second Sunday Gathering at 5:45 p.m.  
CFM Leader Orientation  
Youth Family Fun Night

## Aug. 18

Dr. Mark Brewer First Sermon  
9 a.m. Contemporary Service  
11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Discipleship Kickoff  
Healing Service  
GROW Team Training  
RTF Book Club 6-7:30 p.m.

## Aug. 25

Youth Parent Meeting & Parent Round Table

## Aug. 28

RTF Book Club 12-1:30 p.m.

The Church Calendar on the NAPC App allows you to directly import NAPC events into your mobile calendar! Download the app at [www.napc.org/app](http://www.napc.org/app)

## WORSHIP CALENDAR

**SUNDAYS** (Beginning Sunday, Aug. 18)

8:15 a.m. Corporate Prayer in the Library  
9 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
10:15 a.m. Discipleship Hour  
11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship  
12:15 p.m. Healing Service (on third Sunday)  
4 p.m. Intergenerational Bible Study  
5:45 p.m. Second Sunday Gathering

## DOWNLOAD THE NAPC APP!

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## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

01 Frederika Alexis, Carol Hightower, Celeste Porter, Bernice Hope Mwangi	12 Doc McKay, Charles Kihumba, Mary Celeste Llaurador, Keith Brayton, Margaret Burrows	23 Hector Espinosa, Phillip Reeder
02 Bob Singellton, Linda Hogg, Loann Nguyen	13. Jean Duke, Mike Zott, Scott Johnson, Fiona Smith	24 Jodi Wheeler-Toppen, James Zhuang, Liam Crosland
03 Anne Thacker, Nancy Mwaniki, David Garcia, James Kleywegt	14 Emily Curtin, Margaret Jacobus, George Lin	25 Norma Askew, Doug Clarida, Nancy Aitcheson, Susan Rembert, Keen Cook
04 Ann Coleman, Russell Brooke, Lillian Hanson, Eva Lee	15 Esther Karanja, Bill Jennings, Olivia Rhodes	26 Vernon Dawson, Lorie Coats, Rhonda Wilcox McCurtain, Ruthie Anderson, Eden Bonsu
05 Victor Ugenyi, Jason Chen, Matthew Hills, Larry Witherspoon	16 Alexandra Roddy, Cindy MacNabb, Chantal Edjang, Cindy Burton, Caryn Cook, Isabella Millan	27 Frank Merritt, Rachel Chapman, Morgan Burge, Madeleine Zdrilich
06 Martha Winn, Michelle Witherspoon, Mahsa Naseri, Caroline LeDuc, Will Goldsmith, Sophia Schmidt	17 Whit Smith, Charles Turfait	28 Nathan Langley, John Washburn, Isabella Kershner, Howard Burton
07 Melba Bosse, Elizabeth Roberts	18 Lynn Ohl, Chris Gray, Matt Quinn	29 Ann Mijanovich, Evelyn Rosier, Edward Russell-Tutty, Taylor Simpkins
08 Mio Alford,	19 Karen Taylor, Bob Petersen, Aiden Leap	30 Lina Merchan, Wimberly Eldridge, Eli Bonsu, Barnes Hiscock
09 Charles Mbugua, Carolyn Robison, Matthew Haisten, Kim Goldsmith, Catherine Espinosa, Emma Gray, Kevin Rodriguez, John Banzhaf	20 Missy Craver, Colin Tom	31 Tim Gray, Will Kelbaugh, Jamin Letcher, Yvana Mols, Lei Zhang, Dan Sankar
10 Daniel Kagia	22 Beverly Akers, Kameron Joelson, Annie Heller, Ryan Curtin	
11 Alex Carruth		

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